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NASA SELECTS SMALL EXPLORER INVESTIGATIONS FOR CONCEPT STUDIES

Washington -- NASA has selected six candidate mission proposals for further evaluation as part of the agency's Small Explorer (SMEX) Program. [Astronomy missions only given here.]

- **Gravity and Extreme Magnetism SMEX (GEMS)**, Principal Investigator Jean H. Swank, Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md. GEMS will use an X-ray telescope to track the flow of highly magnetized matter into supermassive black holes.

- **Joint Astrophysics Nascent Universe Satellite (JANUS)**, Principal Investigator Peter W.A. Roming, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Penn. JANUS will use a gamma-ray burst monitor to point its infrared telescope at the most distant galaxies to measure the star-formation history of the universe.

- **Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS)**, Principal Investigator George R. Ricker, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass. TESS will use a bank of six telescopes to observe the brightest 2.5 million stars and discover more than 1,000 Earth-to-Jupiter-sized planets around them.

- Mission of Opportunity decisions pending